

WANAMAKER'S WORK

Julian Hawthorne Spends an Hour in His Office.

A BIG BATTLE OF GIANTS

The Handling of the Postal Business—A Few of the Improvements Made and Contemplated.

[FOR THE SUNDAY HERALD—Copyrighted.]

There is a moral to Mr. Wanamaker's Washington career; it may be formulated as Business vs. Politics. He has been for fifty years identified with business, and has risen to be the greatest dry goods dealer in the world. President Harrison, amidst general outcries of doubt and warning, put him in his cabinet as chief of the postoffice, and now Mr. Wanamaker bids fair to gain the title of the best postmaster-general we have ever had. This is an age of "reforms." Mr. Wanamaker's double record will not soon be broken, either in Philadelphia or in Washington.

The idea of putting a business man into the very hot-bed and head-center of political intrigue in the national capital! It was an audacious conception. The employees of the postoffice number no less than 100,000 persons. What an opportunity for "politics." It is true that Mr. Wanamaker is so rich that money cannot bribe him. He pays out more than a quarter of his official salary on the employment of a private secretary, Mr. Marshall Cushing, who is worth, indeed, as much as the whole salary out of which he is paid. Mr. Wanamaker's home in Washington (formerly the Frelinghuysen mansion, then occupied by the Whitneys, of magnificent memory), has cost him, for change and improvement, more than he will ever make out of the postoffice. How are you to approach a man whose business costs him a million a year? No; Mr. Wanamaker makes nothing out of the vast patronage of his office. Pecuniarily, the whole business is rather a loss to him than otherwise. Why, then, did he accept it?

It must, of course, have been ambition. Mr. Wanamaker is ambitious. He is a strict Presbyterian, a rigid moralist, an honest shopkeeper; but he cannot deny that he is ambitious. Although, however, this was accounted a sin in Julius Caesar, it can hardly be so regarded in Mr. Wanamaker.

MR. WANAMAKER'S AMBITION, so far as Washington is concerned, is confined to giving this country the best post-office administration it has ever had. Some wise persons will here smile graciously

suggestions; many of them are unavailable, but now and then a good one, and such are worth waiting for. He is in his office by 8 o'clock, an hour before the clerks appear. That hour he is at liberty to spend over his private correspondence. Then come the subordinate officers to consult with him. He gives every one the responsibility of his position, his theory being that the more you trust a man the more trustworthy he becomes. But he first selects the man in question with great care, and his instinct in this important matter is very seldom at fault.

At 10 o'clock the procession of congressmen and people in general begins to stream in and lasts till lunch time—at 1 o'clock. Only on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11:30 the postmaster-general gets into the department back and is driven to cabinet meeting. By 3, in any case, he is back in his office and stays there till past 7. Sometimes he drives out with the President or some other leading man, and they enjoy the air in the evening, and I suppose discuss the situation quietly. The last two hours of his office day are spent in considering projects and improvements, and are often the most prolific of the whole nine.

Among the good things that Mr. Wanamaker has accomplished are the establishment of a regular system of promotion for good work throughout the service; greater quickness in the transmission of mails by land and sea; by the development of the railway mail service; the purchase and abolition of lottery business; and the dispersion of indecent literature; more accurate methods of accounting, and a great saving of expense in several directions. Among the good things he intends to accomplish are

EFFICIENT AND CONSTANT INSPECTION of postoffices, a foreign postal card with stamped coupon attached for prepaid reply; duplex house letter books, in which the postman can deliver his mail, while the householder can put his letters in the other; an extended and ultimately universal free delivery; a reform in the present abuse of the penalty frank, whereby more than a million dollars' worth of the most laborious mail carrying is done for nothing; an alteration in the system of promotion for good work throughout the service; greater quickness in the transmission of mails by land and sea; by the development of the railway mail service; the purchase and abolition of lottery business; and the dispersion of indecent literature; more accurate methods of accounting, and a great saving of expense in several directions. Among the good things he intends to accomplish are

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carried in electric launches along the canal from the city to the exhibition.

The armies of the civilized nations of the world number 3,000,000 men besides the loss of their time and labor, they cost at least \$1,000 a year each, and that amounts to \$3,000,000,000.

The city of London is put down by geographers as the centre of the landed hemisphere. In other words, a radius of about 6,000 miles on the curved surface of the earth, with London as a centre, would describe a circumference enclosing more land than any 6,000 miles of the earth could be drawn from any other city in the world.

The total wealth of an Alaska village has been estimated as follows: Number of dogs, 175; hunting sleds, 47; freight sleds, 52; igloos (houses), 22; canoes, 21; kayaks, 14; breech-loading rifles, 67; muzzle-loading rifles, 40; breech-loading shotguns, 5; muzzle-loading shotguns, 34; revolvers, 37; axes (mostly old), 59; pickaxes, 6. Total value, \$2,407.

Asia means morning or east; Europe evening or west; Australia means lying to the south. Hence we may consider that these names mean eastern land, western land and southern land. Asia is a Greek word, Europe is the Hebrew word, Australia is a Latin word. The original of "Africa" is uncertain. Some conjecture that it is a Semitic word, meaning Land of Wanderers.

Various governments pay their chiefs as follows: The Sultan of Morocco, \$50,000 a year; Persia, \$30,000,000; Russia, \$10,000,000; Siam, \$10,000,000; Spain, \$3,000,000; Italy, \$3,000,000; Great Britain, \$3,000,000; Mexico, \$2,500,000; Japan, \$2,500,000; Egypt, \$1,500,000; Germany, \$1,000,000; Saxony, \$500,000; Portugal, Sweden and Brazil each, \$300,000; France, \$200,000; Hayti, \$250,000; Switzerland, \$30,000.

The smallest man in the world, a midget from Holland, twenty-four years of age, who calls himself "Prince Mignon," is exhibiting in Berlin. This little chap, who is exactly two feet high, is a perfectly formed human being, and his performances as an acrobat are really wonderful. He can sing pretty well, makes his little speeches in a clear and pleasant voice, dressed as an acrobat or in evening dress, proves himself an excellent actor.

THE ANIMAL CREATION

Queer Things About the Speechless Creatures.

A Michigan hatchery is incubating 31,000,000 white fish eggs.

The microscope shows that the humble snail has 30,000 teeth in its mouth.

A moose was recently shot at Moosehead Lake, Maine, the head and antlers of which weighed 185 pounds.

The raven is the only bird known to the entomologists which is a native of every country in the world.

The frog owing to its peculiar construction, cannot breathe with the mouth open, and would die in suffocation if it were kept open forcibly.

The eyelid of the owl is immovably fixed in its socket, but the look of wisdom that that bird always appears to have. In the horse an eye in which white predominates indicates a vicious nature.

The descendants of a single wren number as many as 30,000 in one season. November is the fatal month which kills them all off except two or three females, on whom depends the perpetuation of the race.

The largest animal known to exist in the world at the present time is the oryx, which averages 100 feet in length, and the smallest is the mouse, which is only one-twelfth of an inch in length.

No animal has more than five toes, digits or claws to each foot or limb. The horse is one-toed, the ox two-toed, the rhinoceros is three-toed, the hippopotamus is four-toed and the elephant and hundreds of other animals are five-toed.

BONES OF AN EXTINCT BIRD.

It is estimated that the bones of 500 bones were recently found in New Zealand. Occasionally charred remains of this now extinct bird have also been found, which points to the fact, also hinted at in tradition, that the early inhabitants of New Zealand must have hunted and eaten it. The bone was an immense wingless bird of the ostrich type, according to the late Sir Richard Owen, stood at least ten feet high. There was another wingless bird found in Madagascar, whose eggs have been discovered. They measured from twelve to fourteen inches in diameter, and are three times as large as the egg of an ostrich. Nearly all wingless birds have been found south of the equator and on islands, which latter fact seems to furnish a good reason for their not having sooner become extinct.

A SPIDER'S MIMICRY.

An interesting instance of mimicry in a spider has been observed in the south of France. To snare its prey the spider hides in convolvulus flowers, which are plentiful in this region, and are of three principal colors. A green variety of the spider visits the flowers having a greenish hue, a variety mostly white lives in the white flowers, and a partly pink variety frequents the pink flowers. If the animal is found in the red dahlia it is red instead of pink, and in yellow in a yellow flower. The three varieties were at first supposed to be permanent, but it has been accidentally discovered that the color of any one of these spiders changes in a few days when the spider is placed in a different colored flower, and in a box together the pink, white, green and yellow varieties soon become nearly white.

PRODUCTS OF THE EARTH

Old and Unique Curiosities of Nature.

The biggest diamond is 185 carats.

The output of asbestos from the Canadian mines last year was 3,000 tons.

A Atlantic cave of much beauty has, it is reported, been discovered near Glasgow, Virginia.

Chemists have extracted from coal tar sixteen shades of blue, sixteen of yellow, twelve of orange, nine of violet, besides shades of other colors too numerous to mention.

The discovery of a large deposit of manganite has been made in the Argentine Republic. The principal source of this rare metal has previously been from a small vein in the Ural mountains.

Lucy Hooper writes from Paris that she has seen in a jeweler's shop there the most marvelous pearl necklace of modern times. It took its former possessor twenty years to collect the pearls of which it is composed, and they were of such size and beauty that no one else could have collected them. The necklace is valued at \$150,000 and is designed to be a present by the Count to his wife.

USES OF SOAPSTONE.

Soapstone, or steatite, can be made into anything. Very beautiful statues are made of it, and stationary washbasins and sinks are important products. Not an ounce need be wasted for the dust is used to substitute rubber, and artists use soapstone rubbers their dull finish, and in paper, too, it is used to give weight, while a waste can be ground up into a flour which can be made into a fireproof paint for the interior of mills or the roof of buildings.

THE BIGGEST BOWLER.

Accepting reported measurements, the largest crabs, bowler or bowler as yet recognized in the United States, and probably in the world, it is in the town of Madison, New Hampshire, and, according to Prof. Crosby, of the Boston Institute of Technology, has the following maximum dimensions: Length, 38 feet; width, in excess of 45 feet; height, 30 to 37 feet; contents, 10,000 cubic feet, and probable weight, 15,000 pounds, or 7,500 tons. Next to this in size is undoubtedly the great rock in the town of Montville, New London county, Connecticut, generally known by its Indian designation as "Sheeguan," and also as "Mogogan." In the opinion of some, this rock is an isolated granite protuberance, and not a true "erratic" or boulder; but recent examinations have seemed to completely negative the first supposition. Its approximate maximum dimensions are: length, 75 feet; width, 45 feet; height, 60 feet; contents, 70,000 cubic feet; weight, 6,000 tons. If allowance be made for an immense fragment which has fallen from its northeast side, the dimensions and cubic contents of "Sheeguan" would approximate more closely to those of the Madison bowler. One point that goes far towards substantiating the claim that it is a boulder, is the "Sheeguan" rock that it is a true bowler, is the number of undoubted bowlers of an

immense size and of the same granite which exists in comparative proximity.

CORN HUSKS FOR PAPER.

The husk of Indian corn is being used in the manufacture of paper. In some experiments to test this use the husks were thrown into a rotary boiler, and after being mixed with caustic soda and thoroughly boiled, they formed a kind of spongy paste, full of a glutinous substance. This paste was then placed in a hydraulic press so as to separate the gluten from the fiber; a compact mass of fiber was then obtained which was worked in various ways.

HOW PLANTS BREATHE.

When it is once understood that plants breathe through pores in their leaves, the same as we do through our lungs, the necessity of giving them plenty of fresh air will be apparent. On every pleasant day open the door and let the out door air in. Do not let it blow directly on the plants as it comes in, but let it mix with the warm air of the room before it reaches the plants.

POPULAR ATTRACTS LIGHTNING.

M. Ovaroff, a Moscow scientist, has discovered that when lightning strikes in the forest the white poplar (populus alba) is the first to attract it. He came to the conclusion that the tree can be used as a natural lightning rod, and he submitted a memorial to the minister of the interior advising that the planting of a white poplar before every house in the village be made obligatory upon the peasants to prevent fire by lightning.



HERE'S A ROOM THAT IS SACRED

to silence and mirth. Close under the rafters describe a room that is sacred to silence and mirth. And gazing among the strange beams on the floor, I count its long bead-rolls of memories o'er.

Here are chairs that are broken, old chests cast aside, and a chimney that pierces the roof in its pride; There's a low-covered dais that is attached to a reel, And snugly near stands the old spinning wheel.

Worn school books, unrivaled some decades ago, Enclosed in a box, make a curious show; While a cupboard is filled with quaint rubbish, I'll mind Whose use it would take an expert to tell.

A "wagon-chair" rests where the rafters bend low, A relic of toil of a century ago. This it is filled up with a motley-made pile Of bonnets and hats that have parted with "style."

Here a crockery crate holds a load of its own, For a bell-toll records the long years that have flown. While thick cowbells and dust fill each crevice around, Where the past goes to sleep, undisturbed by a sound.

Most pathetic of all is the cradle I see, Which rocked my forefathers before they were free. But they, with the hands that propelled it are gone, While the oaken-made treasure, unharmed, lives on.

In sleep which the cradle was powerless to give, They rest—but their virtues and memories live. I leave it in silence and safety, I trust— And the garret well-haunted by cowbells and dust.



AN OLD VETERAN.

DR. MILES RESTORATIVE NERVE TONIC. I have suffered for 25 years from a nervous system, and have tried every remedy known to man, but have not found relief until I used Dr. Miles' Restorative Nerve Tonic. It has cured me of my nervous system, and I am now a healthy man. I am now a healthy man. I am now a healthy man.

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This is the work which forms the basis of the Americanized Encyclopedia Britannica, which is, as its name imports, the original Britannica re-modelled, amended and, where necessary, enlarged to fit it to occupy in American homes the place held by the original work among the people of England. Articles on subjects peculiarly interesting to Americans—such as the histories and descriptions of American states and cities, accounts of military operations on American soil, descriptions of peculiarly American industries and institutions—have been entirely rewritten and greatly enlarged, the space allotted to matters uninteresting except to Englishmen being correspondingly reduced. A most complete series of biographies of living persons—of whom no mention is made in the original work, its plan extending notices of any but the dead—has been added, a number of new maps, including one of every state in the union, have been introduced and the entire work has been corrected to bring it into line with the progress of history and science up to the present year. The net result is a compilation that in interest and reliability surpasses the original Encyclopedia Britannica as far as that monumental work surpasses all others of its kind.

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